quality problems. 5% of ARWSP funds are earmarked for rural water supply in DDP (Desert Development Programme) areas and Rajasthan get funds in proportion to the number of NSS (No safe source) habitations in the identified DDP Blocks. Apart from these, 5% of total ARWSP funds are released for meeting contingencies arising out of natural calamities and emergent situations like drought etc. Thus, the hydrological conditions in Rajasthan are duly reflected in the proportionate annual allocation of ARWSP funds to the State.

Decline in ground water level in Rajasthan

†4325. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Central Government are aware of the fact that ground water level has fallen too much in Rajasthan due to constant famines and the severe drinking water crisis has arisen there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Government are considering to provide special assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to tackle such a situation; and

(c) if so, the quantum of funds which would be given to Rajasthan under NCCF and by when it would be given indicating the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The analysis of ground water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, through a network of observation wells during the last decade (1995-2004) shows significant decline (more than 20 cm/year) in ground water levels during pre-monsoon period in some parts of all the districts in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Details of assistance given to Rajasthan for droughts of 2002-03 to 2004-05 are as below:—

	Assistance for National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains (in Lakh Metric Tons)
Drought of 2002-03	889.61	32.56
Drought of 2003-04	—	0.19
Drought of 2004-05	216.79	6.99

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi